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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 088140

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ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

66011
DRAFTED BY: NEA:EGABINGTON:MAR
APPROVED BY: NEA:EGABINGTON
S/S:MR KUCHEL
---------- 039493
O 130023Z APR 76 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 088140

NODIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT BEIRUT 3257 ACTION SECSTATE 12 APR

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 3257

NODIS

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE
SUBJ: JUMBLATT PLAYS HARD TO GET

1. JUMBLATT ADVISER ABOU-DIAB CONTACTED EMBOFF NIGHT OF APRIL 11 WITH MESSAGE FROM JUMBLATT. JUMBLATT WAS VERY EXCITED ABOUT REPORTS OF TROOP MOVEMENT IN CHTAURA AND WOULD LIKE MY EVALUATION. HE WAS MEETING WITH PARTY LEADERS ABOUT POSSIBLE REACTION. EMBOFF ASKED ABOU-DI B TO USE HIS INFLUENCE TO HAVE JUMBLATT COOLED IN ORDER NOT TO MAKE SITUATION ANY WORSE. AFTER CHECKING WITH ME EMBOFF PHONED BACK TO ABOU-KIAB TO SAY THAT WE UNDERSTOOD THAT SYRIAN TROOPS WERE IN CHTAURA TO TRANSPORT SUPPLIES FOR THE POPULATION. HE ADDED THAT WE WERE PREPARED TO BE OF WHATEVER HELP WE COULD AND THAT HE, ABOU-DIAB, COULD CONTACT US FOLLOWING DAY.
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2. ABOU DIAB DID IN FACT CONTACT US FOLLOWING DAY APRIL 12. SAID JUMBLATT WANTED FURTHER READING FROM US ON WHAT WAS GOING ON IN CHTAURA. NOTED JUMBLATT DESIRED TO MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACT WITH ME THROUGH HIM. AS A PLOY TO EXERTING PRESSURE FOR ANY ELECTIONS, ABOU-DIAB CONTINUED, THE "PROGRESSIVE" PARTIES HAD DECIDED NOT TO HAVE CONTACT WITH "MEDIATORS". JUMBLATT WANTED NEVERTHELESS TO MAINTAIN CLOSE INDIRECT CONTACT.

3. AFTER CONSULTING WITH ME AGAIN EMBOFF CALLED ABOU-DIAB. STATED THAT OUR REPORTS CONFIRMED TROOPS WERE IN CHTAURA TO PROVIDE FOOD SUPPLIES TO CHTAURA AND NEIGHBORING AREAS. VOLUNTEERED TO REMAIN IN CLOSE CONTACT BUT ADDED THAT IF JUMBLATT HAD DECIDED IN PRINCIPLE NOT TO SEE U.S. PRESIDENT'S REPRESENTATIVE, CONTACT BETWEEN ABOU-DIAB AND EMBASSY HAD TO BE WITH EMBOFF AND NOT WITH AMBASSADOR. ABOU-DIAB, WHO WAS OBVIOUSLY EMBARRASSED, SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THIS COMPLETELY. ADDED THAT DECISION AGAINST DIRECT CONTACT WITH "MEDIATORS" DID NOT APPLY TO ME OR GORCE PRIMARILY, BUT WAS RATHER AIMED AT SYRIANS, EVEN THOUGH ALL THREE HAD TO BE INCLUDED.

8. CONFIRMATION NOTED ABOVE WE TOLD ABOU-DIAB CAME FROM NON-OFFICIAL AMERICAN (HORNER OF QUAKER) WHO HAD TODAY COME FROM DAMASCUS BY TAXI.
BROWN UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, TROOP DEPLOYMENT, SUPPLIES, CAT-C, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, FOODS
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Draft Date: 13 APR 1976
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To: DAMASCUS
Type: TE
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